



Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.

A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

The Arrowheadlines Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Loveland Archaeological Society's "*Arrowheadlines Newsletter*". It's our traditional newsletter with a few minor format changes.

Longtime editor extraordinaire Kevin Zeeck has decided to lose one of the many club hats he's worn for a lot of years and pass the proverbial baton (or typewriter) to me, Rich Savino. I know I speak for all club members when I say a sincere 'Thank you' to Kevin for all the hard work on the newsletter, and of course as Chairman of the Stone Age Fair.

Speaking of the Stone Age Fair, Kevin announced at the October meeting that he's stepping down as the SAF Chairman. Kevin oversaw one successful Fair after another leading up to this year's major move to the new location at The Ranch.

It was great seeing so many Club members at this year's Loveland Stone Age Fair, both as exhibitors and helping with Friday's setup and dinner, as well as throughout the Fair with everything it takes to put on a successful program.

Although the attendance was not up to that of previous Fairs, the new larger venue allowed exhibitors more space to showcase their collections. The expansive room was filled with incredible displays and animated conversation, and everyone in attendance remarked how much they enjoyed the new facility with ample parking, handicap accessibility, brighter lighting, and a great sound system for our 3 speakers. The lectures were at capacity attendance.

A successful Fair depends on ideas, planning, communication, and hard work of a small number of Club members throughout the year. I'd like to encourage more participation of Club members in planning for the 2018 Stone Age Fair. Your ideas, suggestions, and hands-on help are needed to maintain the high level of professionalism the public and academia come to expect of the SAF and the LAS. Even if you can't make a planning meeting, you can participate remotely by e-mailing or calling any of the Club Officers or this Editor with your ideas. The Stone Age Fair is truly a team effort.

On another note: November is a special month for the Club. It's our Native American Pot luck, or potlatch. Members are encouraged to bring an Indigenous dish to share at the meeting. In keeping with that theme, we kick off our annual holiday giving to help the local Native Americans have a nicer Christmas. As always, the Club members' generosity is much appreciated by Jan Irons and the people we help. More details will be included in next month's Newsletter.

November is also the month when we nominate Club Officers for 2018; voting is traditionally in December.

In other Club news, longtime member and author Gary Yeager has just published his new book, "*Against the Grain*"- stories about his life including several about the Club and Stone Age Fair.



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LAS Find of the Month, October 2017:

Members can bring an artifact to be entered into the competition at the monthly meeting, which will be judged based on the following rules:

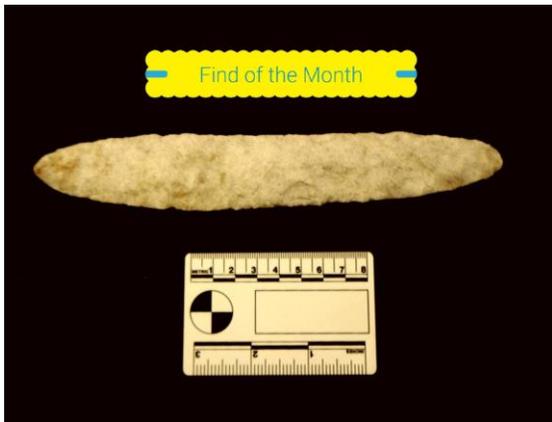
1. Must be a member of LAS in good standing.
2. The artifact must be a personal find.
3. It must have been found within the specified time frame, i.e., within the month prior to the meeting.
4. The artifact doesn't have to be a Colorado find - all that matters is that it was found in the last month.

The Find of the Month for October 2017 was made by Jim Jones. Andy Coca was the judge.

Type: Fremont Blade, 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length

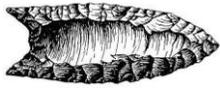
Material: Quartzite

Location: Carbon County, Utah





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LAS News and Upcoming Events:

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Next Meeting is November 7, 2017. Business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m.
PLACE: Rialto Theater Center, 222 E. 4th Street in Loveland, Colorado
PROGRAM: Annual Native American Foods Pot Latch
REFRESHMENTS: Participation by all Club members is encouraged. Please bring a labeled Native American dish to share. It's always informative to describe the food and explain how it was used on a card accompanying the dish.



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

Giant Skull Found in Alaska May Be Evidence of Elusive ‘King’ Polar Bear, Experts Say

POSTED ON MARCH 16, 2017 • UPDATED APRIL 6, 2017 —BY BLAKE DE PASTINO

A giant skull discovered on a beach in northernmost Alaska may belong to a subspecies of polar bear that's never before been reported by scientists. But the elusive bear may have long been familiar to indigenous people in the Arctic.

The single, hefty bone is the fourth largest polar bear skull ever found, measuring 410 millimeters, or just over 16 inches, from the tip of the nose to the back of the skull, and it has what experts describe as an unusually slender and elongated shape. Radiocarbon dating has shown the skull to be about 1,300 years old.

But the giant bear may have descendants living today that have inspired native accounts of enormous, 12-foot long bears, sometimes referred to as “king bears” or “weasel bears,” said Dr. Anne Jensen, who reported the find. “We don't know the exact size [of the whole animal], but we do know it was a huge bear,” Jensen said in an interview.

The skull was found eroding out of a bank after a storm in 2014, at an archaeological site known as Walapka, just a few miles from Utqiagvik, formerly known as Barrow, Alaska. The cranium, found in northernmost Alaska in 2014, is the fourth largest polar bear skull ever found, with features unlike those of modern polar bears, researchers say. The cranium likely belonged to a male that lived a relatively long life, Jensen noted.

“It is adult, and not a young one, since all the cranial sutures — places where the skull plates join — are fused and can barely be seen,” she said. Given the date of the specimen, with a radiocarbon sample ranging from the years 670 to 800 CE, the researchers dubbed the specimen “The Old One.”

But beyond its mere age and size, there was something unique about this bear, Jensen said. “The main thing is the differences in the skull morphology, the shape of the skull,” she said.



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The back of the skull is longer and comparatively narrow, for example, she said, with features that are noticeably different from those of modern polar bears. “The front part of the skull, from roughly the eyes forward, is like that of typical polar bears,” Jensen said. “The back part of the skull is noticeably longer than other bear skulls to which we were able to compare it. “One of those skulls was from quite a large bear, and the front part of the two skulls were not that different in length, but the back parts were strikingly different.” One of Jensen’s colleagues, research biologist and wildlife veterinarian Dr. Raphaella Stimmelmayer, compared the skull of The Old One to more than 300 other polar bear skulls in the collection of University of Alaska Museum of the North. She found several others with a similar shape and features, so it seems likely that The Old One is not entirely unique.

It is possible it’s a subspecies,” Jensen said, “or perhaps it’s more like [with] domestic dogs, where a borzoi and pug are considered members of the same species, [and] not [a] subspecies, even though their skulls are far more different than this is from a standard polar bear skull.” When asked if other polar bears the size of the Old One may still be wandering the Arctic, Jensen said, “Certainly.” This may not come as news to many of the indigenous peoples in the region, she added.

Ethnographers have recorded accounts of outsized polar bears from many Inuit groups, Jensen said.

The Inuvialuit of Canada’s Northwest Territories, for example, have tales of a giant “weasel bear,” while the native peoples of St. Lawrence Island and elsewhere relate accounts of a so-called “king bear.”

Ethnographic accounts from around Utqiagvik, however, don’t seem to include any such giant bear, Jensen noted. “That may be because these bears were not around during the period when people were collecting ethnographic accounts — somewhat later here than in Canada — or because people just didn’t ask the right questions,” she said. The ancient settlement of Walapka was inhabited periodically over the course of 4,000 years. Jensen and her colleagues hope to research the skull further, including DNA analysis and a cross-sectioning of some of its teeth.

But for now, her attention is focused on the nearby ancient settlement of Walapka, a site inhabited periodically over the course of 4,000 years, whose residents may once have lived alongside bears like The Old One. “All this information can help us understand how past cultures functioned in a very difficult environment,” she said.



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

This Month’s Trivia Question: What’s the Largest Earthworks structure in the US and where is it located?

Answer in Next Month’s *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*.